

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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300 New American Citizens Take Oath at Rockford's Coronado Performing Arts Center

Rockford, Ill. – Today at the Coronado Performing Arts Center, 300 individuals from 63 countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens in a special naturalization ceremony.

“Welcome and congratulations to our newest citizens. I urge you to be active and thoughtful participants in our nation and community – register to vote, volunteer, and reach out in kindness to those who have made to feel unwelcome,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, U.S. District Court N.D. Illinois.

Judge Thomas M. Lynch, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for N.D. Illinois, administered the Oath of Allegiance. Illinois State Representative Dave Vella, 68th District, welcomed the new citizens.

Every year thousands of immigrants visit the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to be sworn in as U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremonies. The district's judges preside over these ceremonies, which take place in both of the district's courthouses and throughout the district. Family and friends gather to watch as new citizens take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, a sworn declaration that every citizenship applicant must recite during a formal ceremony in order to become a naturalized American citizen. When taking the Oath, the new citizen promises to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the U.S.

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